

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03272 150629Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O R 141457Z JUNE 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8285
INFO USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3272

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, LE
SUBJECT: TOM RESTON STATEMENTS ON LEBANON

1. PHALANGE PARTY'S FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY LE REVEIL WEDNESDAY
FRONTPAGED MORE ELABORATE VERSION OF STATE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS ON LEBANON THAN ALL OTHER BEIRUT PAPERS.

2. REVEIL VERSION WAS HEADLINED "U.S. CALL FOR LEBANESE
SOLIDARITY" AND ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IN WASHINGTON: "MR. TOM RESTON STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
DEPLORED CLASHES AMONG LEBANESE CONSERVATIVE RIVAL FACTION.
MR. RESTON ADDED THAT U.S. BELIEVES THAT THIS SENSELESS VIOLENCE
WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE TASK OF LEBANON GOVERNMENT IN RESTORING
STABILITY TO COUNTRY.

"HE CONCLUDED: 'THESE EVENTS UNDERSCORE NEED FOR ALL LEBANESE
TO PUT END TO THEIR RIVALRIES AND WORK FOR SOLUTION OF THEIR
PROBLEMS.'

"ON OTHER HAND, A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL DECLARED TO REVEIL THAT
U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTHORITY IN
LEBANON JUST AS IT WAS BEFORE TWO-YEAR WAR.

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"HE ADDED THAT MR. RICHARD PARKER, U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT,
HAD ARRIVED A WEEK AGO (SIC) WASHINGTON IN AND EXPRESSED HIS
VIEWS ON FINDING SOLUTION TO LEBANON'S PROBLEMS, AND ON HOW
TO DEAL WITH THE PARTIES.

"WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, SAME

HIGH OFFICIAL SAID: 'WE HAVE RECEIVED DETAILED REPORT ON THAT SUBJECT.'

WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER ISRAELI INVASION OF BORDER AREA, HE REPLIED: 'I AM NOT IN POSITION TO AFFIRM THAT NO OTHER INVASION WILL TAKE PLACE IN FUTURE.'

"AS FOR LEBANESE FORCES THAT HAVE OCCUPIED POSITIONS FROM WHICH ISRAELIS WITHDREW, U.S. HIGH OFFICIAL SAID: 'INFORMATION WE HAVE CONFIRMS THAT THE ELEMENTS OF WHICH THESE FORCES ARE COMPOSED BELONG TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES, NOT ONLY CHRISTIAN. MOREOVER, MANY MOSLEMS HAVE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED AGAINST PRESENCE OF BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON.'" LANE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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